squire of low degree[5]. I pray you, fall to; if you can mock a leek, you can eat a leek.

Gow. Enough, captain; you have astonished him[6].

FLU. I say, I will make him eat some part of my leek, or I will peat his pate four days:—Pite, I pray you: it is good for your green wound, and your ploody coxcomb.

FIST. Must I bite?

FLU. Yes, certainly; and out of doubt, and out of questions too, and ambiguities.

FIST. By this leek, I will most horribly revenge; I eat, and eke I swear—[7].

FLU. Eat, I pray you: Will you have some more sauce to your leek? there is not enough leek to swear by.

5 — squire of low degree.] That is, I will bring thee to the ground. JOHNSON

'The Squire of Low Degree' is the title of an old romance enumerated among other books in A Letter concerning Queen Elizabeth's Entertainment at Kenelworth. STEEVENS

This metrical romance, which was very popular among our countrymen in ancient times, was burlesqued by Chaucer in his rhyme of Sir Thopas, and begins thus:

"It was a *squyre of lowe degree*
* That loved the kyng's daughter of Hungre."

See Reliques of English Poetry, vol. iii. p. 30, 2d edition. PERCY

6 — ASTONISHED him.] That is, you have stunned him with the blow. JOHNSON

Rather, you have confounded him. M. MASON

Dr. Johnson's explanation is the true one. So, in the second book of The Destruction of Troy: "Theseus smote again upon Ms enemy, which, &c. and struck Theseus so fiercely with his sword—that he was *astonished* with the stroke." STEEVENS

7 eat, and EKE I swear —] The first folio has *eat*, for which the later editors have put—** I eat and swear." We should read, I suppose, in the frigid tumour of Pistol's dialect:

"I eat, and *eke* I swear." JOHNSON.

Thus also Pistol, in The Merry Wives of Windsor:

"And I to Ford shall *eke* unfold—."

STEEVENS.

Perhaps—" I eat, and *eating* swear."

HOLT WHITE.